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10/524,637	02/16/2005	Boris Mayer	30691/DP023	1456

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EXAMINER
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VERDI, KIMBLEANN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2194

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/04/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,637

Applicant(s)

MAYER ET AL.

Examiner

KimbleAnn Verdi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is in response to the Amendment filed on November 2, 2007. Claims 10-12 are pending in the current application. Applicants' arguments have been carefully considered, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Accordingly, this action has been made FINAL. All previously outstanding objections and rejections to the Applicant's disclosure and claims not contained in this Action have been respectfully withdrawn by the Examiner hereto.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Amendment to the specification overcomes the previous objection to the specification.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 1, 2, 3, and 9 of Figure 2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the

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filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,539,360 B1 to Kadaba in view of United States Patent Application 2002/0095454 A1 to Reed et al. (hereinafter Reed), and further in view of United States Patent 6,047,264 to Fisher et al (hereinafter Fisher).

6. As to claim 10, Kadaba teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method for the transmission of notifications by a notification component to users of an electronic parcel compartment system within a postal shipping system, comprising:

transmitting (e.g. uploading) data from at least one database (data stored on Hard Drive 34, Fig. 2) to a central sending component (e.g. step 104, Fig. 3, the pre-alert files are uploaded via the intranet interface 48, Fig. 2, to the Intranet Web Site 54, Fig. 2),

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converting (e.g. generating) the data in the central sending component into notification information (e.g. an alert) (an alert is generated at step 119, Fig. 3, to initiate a problem solving effort by the Exception Center 11, Fig. 1, the alert may be sent to appropriate carrier personnel by signal to the fault alert pager 74, Fig. 2, col. 9, lines 29-32), and

transmitting (e.g. signaling) the notification information to a communication interface (Pager Interface 70, Fig. 2, connects the Central Computer System 15, Fig. 2, to Pagers 72, Fig. 2, carried by customers (consignors or consignees) col. 6, lines 54-56) and from the communication interface to at least one receiving device (e.g. Customer Pager 72, Fig. 2, step 116, Fig. 3, the carrier can notify the customer directly by e-mail, or by signal to the Customer Pager 72, Fig. 2, col. 9, lines 16-18),

storing notification jobs (e.g. "pre-alert files") in a storage module (e.g. Internet Web Site, 65, Fig. 2) (step 107, Fig. 3, the pre-alert files are updated as the packages are scanned whenever they are handled at a consolidation point, the arrival, presence, and departure of the package, as well as any noted exceptions, are posted to the Internet Web Site 65, Fig. 2, col. 8, lines 6-10) and transmitting at least some of the requests for the transmission of notifications (e.g. updates pre-alert files) by a control circuit (e.g. Central Computer 15, Fig. 2) to the storage module (e.g. Internet Web Site, 65, Fig. 2) (Central Computer 15, Fig. 2, updates the pre-alert files on the Intranet Web Site 54, Fig. 2, with information downloaded from the Internet Site 65, Fig. 2, col. 8, lines 15-17), and

acquiring (e.g. consolidating and sorting) the notification jobs contained in the storage module (e.g. PLD data) by a reading module (step 103, Fig. 3, the PLD data received from each consignor is consolidated and sorted into region-specific files, each of which is sorted by district and destination postal code, these files are referred to herein as "pre-alert files", col. 7, lines 33-37) and transmitting the notification jobs to the central sending component (step 104, Fig. 3, the pre-alert files are uploaded via the Intranet Interface 48, Fig. 2, to the Intranet Web Site 54, Fig. 2, col. 7, lines 38-39),

transmitting (e.g. emailing) the information for creating jobs (e.g. PLD Information for creating "pre-alert files", col. 7, line is transmitted to the control circuit (e.g. Computer 15, Fig. 2) via an external interface (e.g. step 101, Fig. 3, the Computer 15, Fig. 2, receives PLD information via e-mail from the Consignor Computer 17, Fig. 2, for packages being shipped on that day, col. 7, lines 25-27),

whereby the information (e.g. PLD Information and "pre-alert files") depends on events (e.g. shipping or package status updates) within the electronic parcel compartment system (PLD Data (e.g. package status) includes the source address or postal code for the package, a reference or tracking number, the final destination address and postal code, the package weight, the level of service and rate applied to the package, the value of the contents, customer codes or description of the contents, hazardous material identification, special handling requirements, and other pertinent information related to the package, any of these items of information can be transmitted to or made available to personnel at downstream consolidation points, to the consignor, and to the consignee, col. 7, lines 5-15, the pre-alert files are updated as the packages

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are scanned whenever they are handled at a consolidation point, the arrival, presence, and departure of the package, as well as any noted exceptions (e.g. shipping status), are posted to the Internet Web Site 65, Fig. 2, col. 8, lines 6-10), and

the events (e.g. package status updates on package scan) triggering defined, definable or variable processing steps (e.g. update to pre-alert files) by the notification component (step 107, Fig. 3, the pre-alert files are updated as the packages are scanned whenever they are handled at a consolidation point, the arrival, presence, and departure of the package, as well as any noted exceptions, are posted to the Internet Web Site 65, Fig. 2, col. 8, lines 6-10).

Kadaba does not explicitly disclose categorizing the events in classes and transmitting the notifications to at least one user for whom the event is defined to be pertinent.

However Reed teaches categorizing the events in classes (Event 116 class, Fig. 3, is an abstract class defining the attributes for Scheduled Events 117, Fig. 3 and logged events 118, Fig. 3, paragraph [0140]).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the PLD Data of Kadaba with the teachings of Events from Reed because this feature would have provided a mechanism to track System events for purposes of accumulated statistics, tracking user or communications object activity, documenting errors, providing payment transaction receipts (paragraph [0140] of Reed), and coordination of package deliveries over a physical communications network such as a postal network (paragraph [0531] of Reed).

In addition Fisher teaches transmitting the notifications to at least one user for whom the event is defined to be pertinent (col. 3, lines 7-9 and 30-32).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the carrier of pre-alert file with the teachings of status receiver from Fisher because this feature would have provided a mechanism for when the transit status, location, or other relevant information changes, the system automatically composes and transmits an electronic mail message to the customer, informing the customer of the status of the shipment (col. 2, lines 14-18 of Fisher).

7. As to claim 11, Kabada teaches the method of claim 10, comprising using at least one template (e.g. pre-defined standards, col. 9, line 28), the central sending component converting (e.g. generating) the data transmitted from the database into the notification information (BI) (e.g. an alert) (an alert is generated at step 119, Fig. 3, to initiate a problem solving effort by the Exception Center 11, Fig. 1, the alert may be sent to appropriate carrier personnel by signal to the fault alert pager 74, Fig. 2, col. 9, lines 29-32).

8. As to claim 12, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 10, see the rejection to claim 10 above.



***Conclusion***

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KimbleAnn Verdi whose telephone number is (571) 270-1654. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:00pm EST..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Thomson can be reached on (571) 272-3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 31, 2008  
KV

  
WILLIAM THOMSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER